

Hi my name is Arnette Jones, I am a resident of the city of Alexandria and have been living in this city since I was 5 years old.

I have a disabled adult child and a disabled grandchild that also live with me. I am in the Section 8 program and I've been participating in this program since at least 1995. I am fortunate enough to live in a relatively safe neighborhood.

I am here today to express my concerns over the management or (lack of management) of the housing authority. In March of this year, I received a letter from my landlord, the George Mason University Foundation, that they had not received the housing authorities portion of the rent since September, 1999, almost a year and a half.

Upon further investigation, I was told by my case worker that in fact, ARHA had no record of me in their computer, and that they were unable to find my file- in spite of the fact that I provided them with their own documentation from '95, '96, '97, '98 & '99. Later, after telling them I had hired an attorney, they miraculously found the file.

However, I now have to go through an entirely new re-application process, which is very extensive and involves, criminal background check, recertification of citizenship, and providing other essential documents like birthcertificates, doctors letters, and the like, re-inspections and other similar requirements- in order to be put back in the program.

Although things seem to be moving back on track, it strikes me as highly unusual and indicative of a larger problem that a housing authority can completely lose, files, paperwork, data base information on even someone like me, who is already in the program.

I'm not sure if anything can be done about this, but I just thought I would let you know of my experience. Because of this experience, I am seriously considering re-locating out of this city. It's a shame, because I've grown up in Alexandria, but feel that with all that I have to deal with right now, it's not worth the hassle. Thank you for listening.